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AUTHOR	Stanton, Timothy K.; Giles, Dwight E., Jr.; Cruz, Nadinne I.
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ABSTRACT

This history of service learning traces the work of 33 advocates, scholars, and practitioners since the early 1960s. Chapter 1 defines service learning and identifies a representative and influential group of "service learning pioneers." Chapter 2, titled "Early Connections Between Service and Education," by Seth S. Pollack, offers a conceptual framework for service learning. Chapter 3 draws on the pioneers' accounts of formative, personal experiences which led them toward service learning. In Chapter 4 the pioneers' first professional service-learning roles and the contexts for them are described, and chapter 5 follows the pioneers as they target postsecondary education as being at the right time and place to combine service and learning. Chapters 6 and 7 describe the variety of service-learning practices developed and established by the pioneers, emphasizing, respectively, student and community development. Chapter 8 recalls efforts of the struggles to maintain, sustain, and institutionalize service learning. In chapter 9 the pioneers identify and assess the outcomes of their work and note the challenges and supports they encountered. Chapter 10 offers recommendations for those concerned with current and future service-learning policies and practice. Appendices provide a list of service-learning practice opportunities and an historical service learning time line, prepared by Robert Sigmon. (Contains 92 references.) (DB)

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